

But while in South Africa, Vorster himself wanted to see Clark and spent much of an hour quizzing the senator on his past public comments—even down to small college appearances in the U.S.

“He spent an hour with me,” Clark said. “They obviously had followed me to each of these, much to my surprise.”

“He would quote me. And then he would say, Did you say that on such and such a date and such and such a place?” “We went through this for an hour. He just wanted the opportunity to tell me how wrong I was about everything I was saying.”

“He was the last great Afrikaner president,” Clark said. “In fact, he ultimately resigned over the embarrassment of the Muldergate thing years later.”

The Muldergate thing—as Clark calls it—was a major scandal inside South Africa in the late 1970s when it was revealed that government funds had been used by the ruling National Party to mount a far-reaching propaganda campaign in defense of apartheid.

This went well beyond placing favorable articles or opinion pieces in the press. Tens of millions of dollars were invested to try to undermine independent South African papers. There was even a failed attempt in the U.S. to buy the Washington Star in hopes of influencing American policy.

Muldergate got its name from Connie Mulder, South Africa’s information minister at the time. But just as Watergate had its John Dean, Rhodie—a top deputy to Mulder—proved the top witness: a suave propagandist who later gave detailed interviews and wrote his own book on the subject filling 900-plus pages.

Rhodie, who was prosecuted for fraud but cleared by an appeals court in South Africa, ultimately relocated to the U.S., where he died in Atlanta in 1993. But by his account, the Vorster government had used its contacts with a Madison Avenue public relations firm, Sydney S. Baron & Co. Inc., to undermine Clark’s reelection.

Rhodie describes a meeting early in 1978 in South Africa attended by Mulder, Vorster and Baron at which Clark’s election was specifically discussed, and the \$250,000 was later moved into one of Baron’s accounts “to make sure that Clark was defeated.”

As South Africa’s information secretary, Rhodie was in fact the signatory of contracts with Baron, according to filings with the Justice Department. These show the New York firm initially received about \$365,000 annually under a contract signed in April 1976. This was increased to \$650,000 a year later. In August 1977, the same arrangement was extended through January 1979, including a \$250,000 payment in April 1978.

Whether this \$250,000 is a coincidence or what Rhodie was speaking on is not clear. At this stage, most of the major players are dead and New York state corporate records show Baron’s firm was dissolved in 1993—the year that Rhodie died.

Watching it all is Clark’s friend, old boss in the House and later Senate colleague, John Culver. The two met in 1964, when Clark signed on to help Culver win his first House election and then worked with Culver in Washington until 1972, when Clark went back to Iowa to run for the Senate.

A Harvard-educated Marine Corps veteran, Culver said he had his own fascination with Africa as a young man in the 1960s. But he remembered that era as a time of greater optimism, as new countries across the continent were emerging from colonial rule.

“Dick came to it when there was less political reward,” Culver said. “But he stuck to it.”

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN STEVEN J. RAIRDON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a minute to recognize CPT Steve Rairdon of Leslie County, KY. Captain Rairdon is a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and participated in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the D-day invasion in Normandy, France, last month.

As an airborne soldier, Captain Rairdon understands the indispensable role his predecessors—the first soldiers of their kind—played in the D-day invasion. In the earliest hours of June 6, 1944, Allied paratroopers dropped behind enemy lines in advance of the amphibious invasion to disrupt German lines of communication and to secure key roads and bridges. The success of their mission proved vital to the success of the invasion as a whole.

By participating in the 70th anniversary ceremonies, which included a jump into Normandy, Captain Rairdon and all those who joined him paid a wonderful tribute to our veterans who fought 70 years ago. It is these acts of remembrance that continue to illuminate the unimaginable sacrifices made by the members of the “greatest generation”. Therefore, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Captain Steve Rairdon.

The Leslie County News recently published an article detailing Captain Rairdon’s time spent in Normandy. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Leslie County News, July 3, 2014]
TELLING THE AMERICAN MILITARY STORY . . .
ONE SERVICE MEMBER AT A TIME

NORMANDY, France.—Army Captain Steven J. Rairdon stands on hallowed ground, as he and hundreds of other American service members are here commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Normandy D-day invasion in 1944 that changed the course of World War II and history. “Honoring our history, securing our future” is the reason the American service members are here today. Rairdon is a member of C Company, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion from Vicenza, Italy, and spent approximately a week in the Normandy region, participating in ceremonies and representing the Americans who fought here 70 years ago.

“I’m extremely honored to have been given the opportunity to jump here. It’s very humbling. I’m proud of our American World War II veterans. They made great sacrifices for our nation, and paved the way for today’s airborne community. Thank you to all of our veterans and their families for their sacrifices they’ve made to keep our country and our NATO allies free,” Rairdon said.

Soldiers such as Rairdon remain indebted to the veterans whose service demonstrated the selfless actions of the “greatest generation” who not only served to protect and defend our nation, but were part of a global force to defend peace and strengthen our ties with an emerging Alliance. The selfless actions by all allies on D-day continue to resonate 70 years later as U.S. forces in Europe remain steadfast in our commitment to our European partners and NATO Allies.

Rairdon is the husband of Myra Sizemore Rairdon, a 1992 graduate of Leslie County

High School and the son-in-law of former Leslie County Superintendent Tommy Sizemore of Hyden, KY. Rairdon is the son of Steve Rairdon of Dewitt, Iowa, and Theresa Reeves of Tyler, Texas.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, on July 16, 2014, I was absent from votes on the confirmation of Mr. Ronnie L. White to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri Vote No. 227 and on S. 2578, the Protect Women’s Health from Corporate Interference Act of 2014 Vote No. 228.

I wish to state for the record my strong support for Mr. White’s nomination and the Protect Women’s Health from Corporate Interference Act. I also wish to state that I would have voted aye on Mr. White’s nomination and the Protect Women’s Health from Corporate Interference Act had I been present.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT VINSON B. ADKINSON III

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Army SGT Vinson B. “Trinity” Adkinson III. Sergeant Adkinson and three other soldiers died August 31, 2010, when an improvised explosive device blew up next to their vehicle near Forward Operating Base Shank, Logar province, Afghanistan.

Known by family and friends as “Trinity” because he was the third Vinson in his family, he was born on December 13, 1983, and grew up in Empire City, OK, before moving in his junior year of high school to live with an aunt in Kansas. His father recalled interest in the Armed Forces was stoked early for Trinity as the first toys his son played with were G.I. Joes.

“He played army outside, he trick or treated as an armyman,” Adkinson Jr. said. “Me and him spent a lot of time outside in the woods. He was born to be a soldier.” Trinity enlisted in the Army immediately after graduating from Chaparral High School in Harper, KS, in 2003.

He started his career with the 82nd Airborne Division followed by serving with the Honor Guard of the 4th Infantry Division. Later assigned to the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team based in Bamberg, Germany, Trinity served three tours in Iraq and was on his second tour in Afghanistan.

“I begged him not to go back,” said grandmother Mary Adkinson after seeing her grandson earlier this year. She said he told her he needed to return to Afghanistan so that the people of that nation could have peace in their lives.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Vinson Bryon Adkinson, Sr., and Robert Allen Morgan, Sr., and is survived by his wife Veronica, father Vinson Bryon Adkinson, Jr., of Comanche, OK, brother Jacob Aaron Adkinson of Stillwater, OK, sister

Mary Kay Adkinson of Wichita, KS, his paternal grandmother Mary Ellen Adkinson of Duncan, OK, and maternal grandmother Sharon Kay Morgan of Wichita, KS.

SGT David Shearouse served with Trinity and was given the task of escorting his remains home. "He always wanted to take point, he wanted to be the leader," he said of his fallen comrade. "Everybody wanted to be like him. He was a good man. I lost my friend, my brother and my hero."

The family held a funeral service for Sergeant Adkinson on September 13, 2010, and he was laid to rest with full military honors in Fort Sill National Cemetery in Elgin, OK.

Today we remember Army SGT Vinson B. Adkinson III, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT JASON L. MCCLUSKEY

Madam President, I would also like to pay tribute to SGT Jason L. McCluskey. Jason was tragically killed in action on November 4, 2010, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire in Zarghun Shahr, Mohammad Agha district of Afghanistan.

Jason was born September 12, 1984, to Jimmy and Delores "Darby" McCluskey in Stockton, CA, and later moved to McAlester, OK. As a wrestler at McAlester High School he went to the State championship tournament several times before graduating in 2004. Quoting James Dean in his senior quote, he wrote: "Dream as if you will live forever. And live as if you will die today."

Upon enlisting in the Army in April 2006, he was assigned as a paratrooper to the 27th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC. "SGT McCluskey was a true hero to us all," said 1SG Randolph Delapena, his company first sergeant. "He was like my son that I saw come up the ranks to become an elite non-commissioned officer. He was the edge of the sword, he led from the front, and he cared deep down for not only his Soldiers, but every Soldier he came in contact with."

His mother, Delores Oliveras, said shortly after her son's death that Jason was dedicated to serving in the Army. "I asked him plenty of times to leave the Army," she said. "But all he would say was, 'No, Mom, I really love what I do.'" Shortly before his death, he was named his battalion's Non-commissioned Officer of the Year.

McCluskey is survived by his son Landon McCluskey, mother Delores Darby McCluskey Oliveras and her husband Ray, father Jimmy McCluskey, brother Joshua Stambaugh, stepfather Charlie Stambaugh, grandmother Anita McCluskey, grandmother Wilma Kohl and her husband Doyle, mother of his son, Cassie Wright, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as many other relatives, friends, and loved ones too numerous to mention.

A funeral was held on November 12, 2010, at Chaney Harkins Funeral Home, and he was laid to rest in Tannehill Cemetery in McAlester, OK.

"Our Army and nation will be forever indebted to SGT McCluskey for his service," said Major General Rodney O. Anderson from Fort Bragg. "SGT McCluskey laid down his life for his friends, his battle buddies, his unit, our Army and our nation."

Today we remember Army SGT Jason L. McCluskey, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

CAPTAIN DAVID J. THOMPSON

Madam President, I am also honoring the life and sacrifice of a true American hero, Army CPT David J. Thompson. Captain Thompson died on January 29, 2010, at Forward Operating Base Nunez, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained while supporting combat operations.

Known as John Paul—JP for short—by many, he was born on May 25, 1970, and listed Hooker, OK, as his home of record. In 1989 he enlisted in the Army and completed basic combat training and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, SC.

John Paul served in a wide variety of jobs during his military career. His first assignment was as a radio telephone operator and team chief for the Regimental Signal Detachment, 75th Ranger Regiment and communications sergeant for the Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA. From 1995 to 1998, he served in AK as a rifle squad leader and platoon sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. He later served as a staff noncommissioned officer with the Command Operations Center, U.S. Army AK.

From January 1999 to May 2002, while attending East Carolina University, he served with the 514th Military Police Company, NC Army National Guard. In May 2002 he completed a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and was commissioned as a chemical officer. Following his officer basic course, he was assigned to 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY, as the division chemical logistics officer. In March 2003 he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment and served as a battle captain and rifle platoon leader for his first deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Then, from June 2004 to November 2005, he served as the battalion adjutant and rear detachment commander. From August to December 2008 he served as executive officer for Company C, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) and held that position until taking command of Operational Detachment Alpha 3334, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC, in January 2009.

Captain Thompson was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, on February 15, 2010.

John Paul is survived by his wife Emily and their two daughters, Isabelle and Abigail of Pinehurst, NC; parents Charles and Freida Thompson of Hinton, OK; and sister Alisa Mueller.

Today we remember Army CPT David J. Thompson, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

REGARDING U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, as the conflict in Gaza continues to escalate, we mourn the tragic loss of lives and hope for a speedy and peaceful resolution. Israelis and Palestinians have both seen far too much bloodshed and destruction.

I cosponsored S. Res. 498 because I stand by Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas' indiscriminate attacks. No country in the world would be expected to stand by as its people are threatened with rocket fire. But both sides should do everything possible to deescalate and end this battle. I urge Hamas to end its attacks and to renounce its mission of annihilating Israel, and I urge Israel to exercise restraint and proportional force, tailoring its tactics to protect innocent lives.

There can and must be an end in sight for the violence that is now engulfing the region. I support calls for an immediate ceasefire. The United States must continue to stand ready to help facilitate a solution and a path forward toward both security and economic development, which are essential elements for any enduring peace.

BOOTHBAY, MAINE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President. I wish to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Town of Boothbay, ME. Boothbay was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

The year of Boothbay's incorporation, 1764, was but one milestone in a long journey of progress, a journey that is inextricably linked to the sea. For thousands of years the Boothbay Peninsula was a fishing grounds of the Etchemin Tribe, and the extensive shell middens and other archeological sites are today a treasure trove of this ancient history.

Drawn by one of the finest natural harbors in New England, English settlement began within a few years of the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth in 1620. The early English influence is underscored by the fact that some of the first deeds granted to the settlers were signed by the Etchemin Sagamore, who was called Chief Robinhood by the newcomers. By 1764, Boothbay was a growing town with an economy driven by